

Vermont Division for Historic Preservation
Agency of Commerce and Community Development
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January 29, 2016

Judith C. Whitney, Clerk
Vermont Public Service Board
112 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-2701

Re: Petition of MountainFunds, LLC pursuant to 30 V.S.A §§ 219a and 248 for a Certificate of Public Good authorizing the installation and operation of a 500 kW group net-metering solar electric generation facility located on Ski Tow Road, West Windsor, Vermont. Public Service Board NMP-7400

Dear Ms Whitney:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above-referenced project.

The Division for Historic Preservation (VDHP) is reviewing this undertaking for purposes of 30 V.S.A., Section 248. The purpose of the VDHP's comments is to provide the Public Service Board (PSB) with the necessary information for their Section 248 review. Project review consists of identifying the project's potential impacts to historic buildings, structures, historic districts, historic landscapes and settings, and known or potential archeological resources.

The proposed project consists of the construction of a 500 kW solar generation facility on approximately 3 acres of an 18 acre property located on Ski Tow Road, West Windsor, Vermont. The facility will consist of approximately 2,205 photovoltaic modules attached to fixed ground mounted racking systems arranged in 13 east to west rows. Related infrastructure includes on existing gravel access road, post or rack mounted inverters, underground electrical connections, an equipment pad, pad mounted transformer, and a perimeter fence. The facility will interconnect to the existing Green Mountain Power Inc. on-site distribution system using an underground electrical connection to an existing transformer.

No archaeological sites or archaeologically sensitive areas were identified during a desk review of the Petition which indicated that the project area has been subject to extensive prior disturbance associated with the construction and removal of a sanitary sewer plant serving the Ascutney Mountain Resort. In addition to the archaeological review, the VDHP considered the Projects' effect on historic structures, districts, and landscapes. Review of the project plans and the surrounding area, in association with the December 18, 2016 Aesthetic Assessment prepared by the SE Group, indicate that visibility of the Project be limited to short duration views from adjacent public roads. The two closest residential structures or complexes, including the farmstead located at 452 Route 44, are historic but are not listed in the State Register of Historic Places. While these structures are likely eligible for inclusion on the Register, both are screened from the proposed installation by existing vegetation and will not be adversely impacted.



Based on the above considerations, the VDHP concludes that the Ascutney Meadows Solar Project will have **No Adverse Effect** on any historic sites listed in or eligible for inclusion in the State Register of Historic Places. This determination is based on a site plan dated December 10, 2015. Any changes to this plan will require additional review. Thank you for your cooperation in protecting Vermont's irreplaceable historic and archeological heritage. R. Scott Dillon and Elizabeth G. Peebles reviewed this project and prepared this letter. I concur with the findings and conclusions described above.

Sincerely:
VERMONT DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Laura V. Trieschmann
State Historic Preservation Officer

Cc: Matthew S. Stern, Esq., Gravel & Shea PC
Service List

